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SUBJECT 1. The 1 Air Pilots' School at Tecuci
 2. Training of Specialists and Soldiers at Tecuci

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25X1A

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. The 1 Military School for Air Pilots at Tecuci is attached to the Air Force Command. Students are recruited from civilians who previously attended a civil aviation school, either a glider school or a regular airplane school. They are selected on the basis of examinations, but this is merely a formality.
2. The course, theoretical and practical, is two years. It begins in October-November every year and ends in the same months after two years.
3. Command Staff: Commander, Lt. Col. Vasilescu (fnn); Political Commissar, Major Buhanea (fnn); Chief of Pilot Training, Capt. Veto Jara; Chief of Training Bureau, Capt. Balat (fnn); Aide: a sub-officer; Chief of Political Section, Major Buhanea. The Political Section is composed of four bureaus: Bureau for Agitation and Propaganda; Bureau for Training of Political Cadres; Bureau for Youth Training (UIM); Bureau for Collection of Information. Counterintelligence officer: Lt. Lazu (fnn); Administration of school: the chief is a major (name unknown).
4. Organization: The students are organized into three squadrons of three groups each, with three planes in each group. The school's complement is 140-150 students.
5. Organization of a Squadron: Officers in charge of training pilots, 14-16; student pilots, about 50; technical personnel, approximately 15 specialists, shoemakers, tailors, etc.
6. Commander of squadron, Captain Ion Radu; Political Commissar, Captain Petrasche Tene; Squadron engineer, Sub Lt. Ion Vasile;

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25X1

SECRET/

- 2 -

7. The squadron is composed of three patrols. 1 Patrol: commander, Lt. Ion Gotaros; technical officer, Lt. Ion Cosma. 2 Patrol: commander, Lt. Dumitru Ionescu; technical officer, Lt. Ion Neagu. 3 Patrol: commander, Lt. Ion Goni; technical officer, Lt. Gheorghe Roman.
8. Flying equipment: Each squadron has a PO-2 Soviet type plane; an American type plane fabricated in Rumania ("Fleet"); an Italian plane (Nardi); a Rumanian plane, IAR 27; a German plane, Focke-Wulf 58. All squadrons have the same organization and equipment.
9. Courses: Courses in theory for the first year start on 1 November and end on 1 April. They include general culture courses and courses in specialized fields. The general culture courses are: arithmetic, geometry, history, geography, physics, chemistry, Rumanian and Russian languages. The specialized courses are: motors, aero-dynamics, plane construction, dashboard controls, aerial navigation, meteorology, general tactics, aviation tactics, firing and bombing. The political courses are: history of the USSR Communist Party, struggle of the working class in Rumania, dialectical materialism, socialistic political science.
10. Practical Courses: From April to October practical courses are given. The students, together with their instructors, make dual controlled flights. The planes take off from one runway and land on another nearby. Each student must make 60-100-120 such flights with his instructor. The student's aptitude determines the number of flights he must perform. After these flights the student is given an examination by the chief of pilot training, who takes him on a flying tour of the field, to see whether he is ready to fly alone. Next, the student makes solo flights. During the first year the students use planes of the "Fleet" and PO-2 types. After 20-30 solo flights, the students, again with their instructors, begin the so-called "works"; that is, flying in "S's" spins, etc. After this period the student can do these maneuvers alone. 1
11. Courses in theory start in November of the second year. In the following April practical courses start, this time with different types of planes: Nardi, IAR-27, and Focke-Wulf. Acrobatic flights are made with the IAR-27's and the Nardi's, but the courses do not include all acrobatics.
12. In October of the second year, examinations in both theory and practice are held. The examining commission is composed of two or three delegates from the Air Force Command. The students are classified in six categories, according to their marks. Students belonging to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd categories are assigned to fighter units. Students in the 4th and 5th categories are sent to bomber units. Students in the 6th category are sent to transportation, liaison, and scouting units.
13. In general, the results of the training are unsatisfactory. The reason is the low level of preparedness of the candidates, who have gone to grade school, and possibly to an apprentice school. In the past, students were required to pass at least seven "high school" years, equivalent to junior year high school in the United States.

Training of Specialists and Soldiers at Tecuci

14. The school instructs both specialists needed by the school itself and specialists needed by other units. The soldiers' training program is: 7-8 a.m., political instruction; 8-10 a.m., military training; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3-7 p.m., practical work in workshops; 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., political instruction.

SECRET/

25X1

25X1A

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25X1

-3-

15. Military training consists of infantry training (arms, shooting); target practice is held once a month at ranges of 100, 200, 400, and 600 meters.
16. Specialized instruction is both theoretical and practical. The students are divided by their specialties in workshops of the school. The courses last three months. After this period the students are sent to the various units or workshops to work, each in his own specialty.
17. Political instruction embraces the following subjects: the struggle of the working class in Rumania under the leadership of the Communist Party, which strives for a better life; agricultural collectivization; the war-mongering Anglo-American imperialism; the evolution of socialism in Rumania; history of the USSR Communist Party.
18. Cultural Activities: Every week the soldiers go to the movies, where they see propaganda films, especially those of Soviet make. Every two weeks the "culture" troupe, composed of the most talented soldiers, gives theatrical performances. They play small scenes, either assigned by the Political Commissar or composed by themselves. Each squadron has a bulletin board. News is issued every two weeks. The bulletin board contains mostly items about political matters. A magazine called Aripi Noui (New Wings) is put out by the school. Its editing committee is under the direction of the Political Commissar. The soldiers are compelled to produce articles for both the bulletin board and the magazine, which is a weekly.
19. Party activities: There is one party organization for the school. It holds meetings once a month. Party cells are organized in each squadron. They are composed of 20-25 members, at the most, for each squadron. These people were party members in civilian life. There are also officer and noncommissioned officer party cells, composed of 8-10 members each. At the cell meetings the material received from the political section (which, in turn, received the material from the army's High Political Bureau) is studied. Cell meetings take place twice a month.
20. Union of Working Youth (UTM) Activities: Approximately 80 percent of the students and soldiers are enrolled in the UTM organization. The UTM organization for the soldiers is headed by a seven member committee which includes secretaries of the squadrons. The head offices of the UTM organization are composed of five members for each squadron. The squadron organizations hold monthly meetings. The organization for the entire school holds meetings every two months. The UTM organization is in charge of training elements which will later be promoted to membership in the party. The membership of the UTM is fairly large but the great majority of members do not really believe what is taught at the political and educational meetings. Many of the soldiers ask the speakers leading questions in order to embarrass them and make them ridiculous. Others who enrolled in the UTM did so in order to be able to get a job after finishing military training. Another kind of UTM members are those who joined because of fear, because their families might have been considered reactionaries or unadaptable and sent to labor detachments.

25X1A

1. [REDACTED] Comment. The pattern of flight training in the above paragraph strikes this office as somewhat illogical. It should not take approximately 60 hours or more to solo a Fleet Trainer type airplane. Twenty to thirty hours of solo flying not fairly liberally interspersed with dual instruction would allow the student to fall into bad flying habits and for this reason would probably not be sanctioned. Spins would logically be taught before soloing, preferably very early in the program. "S" turns, along a ground reference line, are normally given as coordination practice quite early in flight training; i.e., after the initial eight or ten hours. The apparent illogic of a program such as that set forth in paragraph 10 causes this office to question other material in the report which it is not in a position to evaluate.

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